IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1, 17-43; add new claims 44-60; and amend claims 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 16.

1. herein cancelled

2. (herein amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having an amino acid identity of at least about ~~70%~~ 90% with the entire amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein at least one of His374, His 378, and His417 are any amino acid other than histidine.

3. The isolated polypeptide of claim 2, which is a mammalian polypeptide.

4. The isolated polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

5. The isolated polypeptide of claim 4, which is encoded by the nucleic acid having ATCC Designation No. 209510.

6. (herein amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 4, which is encoded by a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, with a mutation resulting in a variant where at least one of His374, His 378, and His417 are any amino acid other than histidine.

7. (herein amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 6, which has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with a mutation resulting in a variant where at least one of His374, His 378, and His417 are any amino acid other than histidine.

8. (herein amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to at least about 15 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein at least one of His374, His 378, and His417 are any amino acid other than histidine.

9. (herein amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim ~~9~~ 8, which has a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide.

10. The isolated polypeptide of claim 9, which binds a target peptide.

11. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds angiotensin I.

12. (herein amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, which ~~hydrolyzes~~ lacks the ability to hydrolyze angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

13. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds kinetensin.

14. (herein amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, which ~~hydrolyzes~~ lacks the ability to hydrolyze kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

15. The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

16. (herein amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about ~~70%~~ 90% similar to at least about 50 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 2 and which has a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide, wherein at least one of His374, His 378, and His417 are any amino acid other than histidine.

17-43 herein cancelled.

44. (new) An antibody which binds the polypeptide of claim 8.

45. (new) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having an amino acid identity of at least about 90% with the entire amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein at least one of Glu 375, Glu 402, and Glu 406, are any amino acid other than glutamic acid.

46. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44, which is a mammalian polypeptide.

47. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 45, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

48. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which is encoded by the nucleic acid having ATCC Designation No. 209510.

49. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which is encoded by a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, with a mutation resulting in a variant where at least one of Glu 375, Glu 402, and Glu 406, are any amino acid other than glutamic acid.

50. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which has the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with a mutation resulting in a variant where at least one of Glu 375, Glu 402, and Glu 406, are any amino acid other than glutamic acid.

51. (new) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to at least about 15 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein at least one of Glu 375, Glu 402, and Glu 406, are any amino acid other than glutamic acid.

52. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 51, which has a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide.

53. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 52 , which binds a target peptide.

54. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 53, which binds angiotensin I.

55. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 52, which lacks the ability to hydrolyze angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

56. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 53, which binds kinetensin.

57. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 52, which lacks the ability to hydrolyze kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

58. (new) The isolated polypeptide of claim 51, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or complement thereof.

59. (new) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% similar to at least about 50 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 2 and which has a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide, wherein at least one of Glu 375, Glu 402, and Glu 406, are any amino acid other than glutamic acid.

60 (new) An antibody which binds the polypeptide of claim 51.